

SUMMER
2020

City of Lower Burrell
2800 Bethel Street
Lower Burrell, PA 15068



City Meetings

Monthly Council Meetings
(All are 7 PM unless notes)

Agenda - 1st Monday
Council - 2nd Monday

Municipal Authority
2nd Monday at 6:30

Planning Commission
3rd Wednesday

Zoning Hearing Board
3rd Monday

Parks Commission
4th Monday

Your City Officials

Mayor John Andrejciak

Department of Public Affairs

Councilman Chris Fabry

Department of Accounts/Finance

Councilwoman Rosina Albanese

Department of Parks and Property

Councilman Robert Hamilton

Department of Public Works

Councilman Joseph Grillo

Department of Public Safety

Controller – Tony Farina

Treasurer – Brian Eshbaugh

City Administrator – Amy Rockwell

Chief of Police – John Marhefka

Director of PW – Todd Giammatteo

Ordinance/Zoning – Michael Nedley

All emergency calls, please use 911.

Contact us at 724-335-9875.

Lower Burrell Insider



NEW LOCAL AND COUNTY PROPERTY TAX PAYMENT PERIODS

*Discount Period – 2%
through August 31, 2020
Face Period – September
1, 2020 through
December 31, 2020.*

Messages from Council

Mayor's Office

Good Citizens of Lower Burrell,

The pace has not stopped for one second from January 6, 2020 till today. The great team we've been assembling around me has tackled many serious issues. When I took office, I had no idea we'd be two months in and I'd be dealing with a worldwide Pandemic. I'm sure you've heard the saying, "Just play cards with the hand you're dealt." That's exactly what we've done, and exactly what we plan to do.

If you get the chance out in public, please, welcome onboard Todd Giammatteo, our new Director of Public Works. He's been in charge of the Department for a few weeks now; and I must say, "So Far, So Good."

If anyone needs help navigating through these tough times, a Resource Guide or Quick Links for COVID-19 matters has been compiled by our City Administrator, Amy Rockwell. It will be posted on our website very soon. If you do not have a computer or the ability to use the Internet, call me at City Hall. I'd be happy to assist anyone looking for guidance.

I personally want to thank each and every resident in Lower Burrell for the awesome job we've done since the last newsletter with social distancing and keeping the coronavirus at bay, and out of our Great City. Just be cautious now that we are in the Yellow Phase of reopening. Hopefully, we will very soon move to the Green Phase, and we can see our business district, restaurants, shops, and eateries getting back to a "New Normal." No one in Lower Burrell wants that more than I.

I have 6,527 hugs and 2,132 handshakes stored up for All of You. Until we are rid of this Pandemic, please, know that we will do whatever is within our power to help any citizen of this Great City.

God's Speed and Much Love,

Mayor John Andrejciak

Director of Accounts and Finance

I hope you, your family and friends are all healthy and safe during the COVID-19 crisis. The effects of COVID-19 have changed the lives of every one of us. The result on our local government has been no exception.

Council has taken the steps to extend the deadlines on your property tax. **The discount period of 2% now runs through August 31, 2020 while the face value period was extended until December 31, 2020.** There will be no penalties due if paid by the end of the year. This also mirrors the county extensions to make planning easier on our residents.

Amy Rockwell, Brian Eshbaugh and I have been working continually on the financial implications from the pandemic. We anticipate delays in some revenue streams and shortfalls in other areas. The unknown loss could be very significant to our budget. I am working closely with department heads and my fellow council members to limit spending as much as possible. This is no easy task as there are no discretionary items in the city budget. Council and staff are working diligently to attend meetings to explore alternate funding and resources to help our city.

Thank you to all our first responders in the city. Our police, fire and EMS departments have done a tremendous job navigating through this pandemic. I would also like to congratulate Burrell High School's graduating class. While it might not be exactly what you dreamed, I'm happy that you will have an opportunity to have a (not quite) traditional graduation ceremony. I have had the pleasure of working with many of the graduates over the years as they have helped with many city events including the Day of Caring in our parks and our various holiday events. You are a fine group of young adults and I wish you the best moving forward.

The past few months have been trying for everyone involved. I see light at the end of the tunnel and think we will all get through this. Stay strong and take care of one another. We are all in this together.

Councilman Chris Fabry

Message from LBPD

Information regarding Economic

Impact Payments (Stimulus Checks)

The Lower Burrell Police Department would like to make citizens aware of the following Crime Prevention tips regarding COVID-19 and Stimulus checks. The Economic Impact Payments aka Stimulus Checks have given rise to a variety of new scams. Please be aware of the following;

Robo-Call Phone Scams – Phone calls are placed by scammers pretending to be the IRS and ask for personal/identifying information. The scammers will say that they are going to use this information to deposit your stimulus check into your account. Do not provide any information! The IRS does not require any type of payment or fee to receive a stimulus check.

E-Mail and text Scams – A scammer will send a text message to your phone containing a link. This link will often say to click it to receive your stimulus check. Do not click it! The IRS does not send communications via text message for stimulus checks to be received.

Identity Theft Scams – If the official IRS website says you have already received your stimulus check, and you have not, you may be a victim of identity theft. A scammer may have stolen your information and claimed your check for themselves. Please see <https://identitytheft.gov/> for more information.

Google Search Scam – Fraudulent websites are designed by scammers to appear as if they are the legitimate IRS website. Do not enter any personal information online unless you are sure the site in question is legitimate and secure.

Chief John Marhefka

The City of Lower Burrell - where you belong

Parks and Public Property

I hope you and your loved ones are all healthy and happy during this time.

Veterans Park behind City Hall has new playground equipment installed. It looks so very fun, and I am so excited for the children in your life to be able to play on it once Governor Wolf moves Westmoreland County to the "green zone."

I am pleased that the parks are open and available for exercising yourself and your pets. As gyms are still mandated to be closed via the Governor's orders, our parks are a great place to take your daily walk or jog. It is important to be receiving enough Vitamin D from sun exposure; about 20-30 minutes of mid-day sun is suggested by professionals. Exercising can also help with your body's production of endorphins, the happy hormone! With many people struggling to maintain mental health, talking a brisk walk in the park may have many physical and mental benefits.

With so many different pressures mounting during this uniquely unprecedented time, if you are struggling with suicidal thoughts, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or utilize their online chat feature. You are not alone. Things will get better.

As always, if you need anything from me or have any questions, please get in contact, and I will do my best to assist you in any way I can.

All the best!

-Councilwoman Rosina Albanese

LOWER BURRELL

FARMER'S MARKET

Starting on Saturday, June 13th and continuing every Saturday through October 10th, 2020 from 9am to 1pm, the Lower Burrell Farmer's Market will take place in the City Hall parking lot.

The market will follow any current CDC guidelines throughout its Summer of 2020 run. Please watch for guidelines and signage as you attend each week and don't forget to bring your masks!

Public Works

The public works department has been going through a lot of changes. We are pleased to introduce Todd Giammatteo as our newly appointed Director of Public Works and Parks. Please see more about Todd below. Since the beginning of March, the City of Lower Burrell has been addressing the impact of Covid-19. Although Covid-19 has caused a lot of things to slow down and people to stop working, our Public Works department has continued to work. We owe our employees many thanks during this challenging time and are grateful for their hard work and efforts during this unprecedented time. Although Covid-19 continues to be a priority, the City continues with much needed streets/sewer projects. The bids have gone out for the road work, and a list of roads will be published as soon as possible. In the meantime, we urge you to call into the public works department as we have started a call list so we can track and address your concerns in a timely matter. We wish everyone well and hope that you continue to stay safe and, as always, thank you for allowing me the pleasure to serve as your city councilperson.

-Councilman Rob Hamilton

Residents of Lower Burrell, you will see a new face among the hard-working group of guys that work for the City of Lower Burrell. Let me start by introducing myself, my name is Todd Giammatteo, Director of Public Works and Parks and it is an honor to serve all of you. I reside in Richland Township with my wife and eight-year-old son. Prior to coming to Lower Burrell, I was the Director of Public Works for the Borough of Bellevue for several years where we faced many of the same adversities as Lower Burrell from aging infrastructure and deteriorating roads to storm water issues and lack of funding for park upgrades.

With the Covid 19 Pandemic sweeping across our country, please know that we as a City are doing everything to keep our residents and

our employees as safe as possible. That means maintaining social distancing, disinfecting our trucks on a daily basis, and limiting our crew size. With that being said, we are behind on some of the projects we had scheduled in early spring such as the new playground equipment for Veterans Park which should get started the first week of June. We are also behind on street sweeping, pot-hole repair and catch basin cleaning and restoration. Storm water projects are behind as well due to weather and the pandemic. We are working to get back on schedule.

-PW Director Todd Giammatteo

Public Safety

Hello Friends.

As we muddle through all of the uncertainties of the coronavirus, let me thank all of our first responders and essential workers. May God keep all of you safe always and especially now.

On May 18th we resumed our resale and rental home inspections. Please call 724-337-4381 if you need to schedule or have any questions.

This is the time of year for all types of sales; garage sales, yard sales etc. Please DO NOT attach any of your signs to our street signs or telephone poles. Thank you, I appreciate it.

The City continues to work with our fire departments to establish a firefighter tax credit to incentivize membership and retain members.

Consider donating to our local Fire Companies. The contribution will be well spent and it stays within our community.

In closing, even though our community is missing our Memorial Day celebrations, I want to thank the men and women that have made the ultimate sacrifice,
I THANK YOU.

Have a great summer and stay safe!

-Councilman Joe Grillo